

Rhodora

JOURNAL OF

THE NEW ENGLAND BOTANICAL CLUB

Vol. 22.

September, 1920.

No. 260.

FRANCIS EUGENE M'DONALD

VIRGINIUS H. CHASE.

(With Portrait)

FRANCIS EUGENE McDONALD was born at Wyanet, Illinois, Feb. 23, 1860. The family moved to Peoria in his childhood and he received his education in that town. After completing his school days, F. E. McDonald took up the study of law under Judge Bigelow. He stood third in a class of twenty-six and was admitted to the bar, January 8, 1883. He had taken the law course because his mother wished it, but controversies and quarrels were so absolutely contrary to his nature that he never could bring himself to practice his profession.

On account of the illness of his father, who was in the railway mail service, he took his place for some months as railway mail clerk between Galva and Quincy, Ill., and in 1884 was given a regular appointment between Rock Island, Ill., and St. Louis, Mo., which he held up to the time of his death.

As a child he greatly admired a little "herbarium" prepared by his mother in her school days, but just how great his admiration for it was she never realized until she thoughtlessly gave it away. Before many years he began to collect and prepare herbarium specimens for himself, and by the time he was married, Sept. 25, 1890, to Miss Ida Trine of Chicago, he had a large local collection. He added to this by exchange with all the best collectors in the country, until at the time he sold it to the University of Illinois, about ten years ago, it numbered over ten thousand specimens.

His numerous correspondents were always delighted with the ample, beautifully prepared specimens. He never sent out a poor specimen or gave one space in his own herbarium. Taking up the study of the local flora just about the time Dr. Brendel was laying it down, he derived much pleasure from finding species overlooked by the Doctor, and in watching the introduction of many new weeds. His beautifully prepared book of records is now one of my most treasured possessions. I hope it may be published as a fitting companion to Dr. Brendel's *Flora Peoriana* and as a real contribution toward a state flora.

Except for a few notes his writing never appeared in print, but his beautiful specimens are in most public herbariums and in many private ones, and have helped many a student in understanding difficult species.

After disposing of his general herbarium he devoted his study almost entirely to mosses, of which he had a large collection from all parts of the world, although especially rich in Illinois material. His interest in plants never faltered. Twice the past summer he visited the Starved Rock region for mosses, and during his last illness he had botanical magazines on his bed to read when he was able. He died of pneumonia at his home in Peoria on Jan. 30, 1920, leaving a wife and son. Truly one of Nature's noblemen, he is now laid to rest in his beloved "Springdale" among whose wooded hills he has gone to welcome the coming of the springtime.

PEORIA, ILLINOIS.

ADDITIONAL NOTES ON AMELANCHIER.

K. M. WIEGAND

It is now eight years since the writer contributed to this Journal two articles on the Amelanchiers of Eastern North America (*RHODORA*, xiv. 117, and 239. 1912). During this time a large quantity of material has been received, and much information has been accumulated relating to the species in Eastern America. In the light of this increased knowledge it is now apparent that several forms which gave trouble at that time are really good species. These and others are presented in the following pages.